



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Aug. 23, 2012**

By: Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning, Okinawa Marine Staff

## **Multinational forces participate in field training exercise in Mongolia**

**FIVE HILLS TRAINING AREA, Mongolia** – Serving in the military offers many opportunities, including the chance to travel to different countries to train with other nations.

Khaan Quest 2012 participants are experiencing this unique opportunity during the multinational exercise sponsored by U.S. Army Pacific and hosted by the Mongolian Armed Forces. Khaan Quest 2012 is the latest in a continuing series of exercises designed to promote regional peace and security.

Approximately 600 service members from the Mongolian Armed Forces, Alaska Army National Guard, U.S. Marine Corps, Republic of Korea and India are participating in the Field Training Exercise (FTX) portion of Khaan Quest. Japan and Australia are also involved in the FTX, with instructors educating troops from the participating countries.

"The Field Training Exercise concentrates on enhancing the capability of partner nations to prepare for and conduct future peacekeeping operations," said Command Sgt. Maj. Clinton K. Brown II, 297<sup>th</sup> Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Alaska Army National Guard. "We are achieving that objective while bridging international gaps and creating lasting partnerships."

Throughout seven days, the multinational troops are conducting platoon level training scenarios.

"In this FTX, we are conducting many different types of exercises," said Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Capt. Go Yoshiyuki, an instructor at this year's exercise. "We are teaching disarmament, providing security for and conducting a distribution site, counter-improvised explosive device training, checkpoint operation training, as well as mounted and dismounted patrols."

One of the biggest considerations during peacekeeping operations service members need keep in mind is the use of force, according to Yoshiyuki.

"All of your efforts to provide aid can be ruined if you use force during a peacekeeping operation," said U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Alan J. Maria Jr., a platoon sergeant in 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. "If you are setting up a food distribution site and a scenario arises which requires a use of force to defend yourself or others, people may become afraid to approach you for help. This is a difficult concept to grasp for (service members) who are not accustomed to peacekeeping operations."

The Khaan Quest FTX provides the training and exchange of tactics, techniques and procedures for peacekeeping operations between the participating nations.

"This is a great opportunity for service members from various countries to train and learn from each other," said Mongolian Armed Forces 1st Lt. E. Gantumur, an instructor at Khaan Quest. "Personally, I know this exercise will help my soldiers and me in upcoming deployments. The terrain is similar to the areas we will be operating in, and we are also learning new techniques for how to effectively complete peace-support operations."

Through the military-to-military exchange, participants hope for continuing opportunities to build upon relationships forged during the exercise.

"I would like to see this exercise continue to grow and more nations to participate," said Yoshiyuki. "Peacekeeping is a very important mission and the more nations able to join in peacekeeping efforts throughout the world, the better."

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#### **Cutlines:**

##### **KQ12\_MAF\_FTX.jpg**

Members of the Mongolian Armed Forces participate in the entry control point scenario as part of the field training exercise during Khaan Quest 2012. Khaan Quest is a regularly scheduled, multinational exercise sponsored by U.S. Army Pacific and hosted annually by the Mongolian Armed Forces. Photo: Sgt. A. Altankhuyag, Mongolian Armed Forces

##### **120818-Z-MW427-068.jpg**

Indian military forces participating in Khaan Quest 2012, practice convoy operations at the Mongolian Armed Forces Peace Support Operations Training Center, in the vicinity of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, Aug. 18. Khaan Quest is a regularly scheduled, multinational exercise sponsored by U.S. Army Pacific and hosted annually by the Mongolian Armed Forces. Photo: Sgt. Edward Eagerton, 134<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment, Alaska Army National Guard

##### **120816-Z-MZ867-050.jpg**

Alaska Army National Guardsmen assigned to the 1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance Squadron along with ROTC cadets participate in a mounted counter-improvised explosive device scenario as part of the field training exercise for Khaan Quest 2012 held at the Mongolian Armed Forces Peace Support Operations Training Center near Ulaanbaatar,

Mongolia, Aug. 16. Photo: Sgt. Michelle Brown, 134th Public Affairs Detachment, Alaska Army National Guard

**120816-Z-MZ867-054.jpg**

Alaska Army National Guardsmen assigned to the 1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance Squadron along with ROTC cadets participate in a mounted counter-improvised explosive device scenario as part of the field training exercise for Khaan Quest 2012 held at the Mongolian Armed Forces Peace Support Operations Training Center near Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, Aug. 16. Photo: Sgt. Michelle Brown, 134th Public Affairs Detachment, Alaska Army National Guard

**KQ12\_ROK\_FTX.jpg**

Members of the Republic of Korea Army participate in a dismounted react to an improvised explosive device scenario as part of the field training exercise at Khaan Quest 2012, held at the Mongolian Armed Forces Peace Support Operations Training Center near Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, Aug. 17. Khaan Quest is a multinational exercise sponsored by U.S. Army Pacific and hosted by the Mongolian Armed Forces. Photo: Capt. Rusty Meyer, Alaska Army National Guard

**120816-M-XK110-101.jpg**

Petty Officer 3rd Class Luis C. Amaya scans for explosive threats during observation training as part of Exercise Khaan Quest 2012 at the Mongolian Armed Forces Peace Support Operations Training Center in the Five Hills Training Area near Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, Aug. 16. Khaan Quest is a regularly scheduled, multinational exercise sponsored by U.S. Army Pacific and hosted annually by the Mongolian Armed Forces. Amaya is a corpsman with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo: Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning, U.S. Marine Corps